

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for using software products that are offered via a network, comprising the steps of:
- 5 inquiring about a software product from an offer server by a user via a terminal device;
- downloading said software product from said offer server via said network onto said terminal device in response to said inquiry of said user;
- activating a software component of said software product;
- starting a communication by way of said software component with a usage processing server regarding a usage of said software product in response to a call of said software product in said terminal device of said user;
- providing, by said software component in a framework of said communication, data to said usage processing server; and
- checking said data, by said usage processing server, and then making a
- 15 determination selected from the group consisting of: whether usage of said software product is approved with respect to said inquiring user, and whether charging operations are carried out on user accounts and provider of software product accounts.
- 20 2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of operating said usage processing server by a network provider.
3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of operating said offer server by a network provider.
- 25 4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of using a web server for a server selected from the group consisting of said offer server and said usage processing server.

5. A usage processing server comprising:
a usage processing module for processing a software product downloaded from a network;

5 wherein said usage processing server is contacted by said software product after said software product has been downloaded into a terminal device of a user and has been activated; and

wherein usage processing data required to perform usage processing are delivered to said usage processing server.

10 6. A usage processing server according to claim 5, further comprising:
a data store in which a software product identification of said software product and type of usage processing data that prescribe a type of usage processing of said software product are stored by said usage processing module, and

wherein said usage processing module registers said software product.

15 B 7. A usage processing server according to claims 5, wherein:
said usage processing data required comprises a software product identification of said software product and a user identification.

8. A usage processing server according to claim 5, wherein:
said usage processing comprises performing an access control.

20 9. A usage processing server according to claim 5, wherein:
said usage processing comprises performing a usage charging of said software product on user accounts and provider accounts.

10. A usage processing server according to claim 5, wherein:
said usage processing module keeps statistics about usage contacts that have taken place and about results of a processing of said usage contacts.

11. A software product, comprising:

a software component that is activated when called by said software product and that subsequently starts communicating with a usage process server and delivers usage processing data required for performing usage processing to said usage processing server in the framework of said communication;

wherein said software product can be downloaded into a terminal device by a user via a network in response to an inquiry from said user.

12. A software product according to claim 11, wherein said usage processing data comprises:

software product provider data; and

software product identification; and

wherein said usage processing data is dynamically determined user data.

13. A software product according to claim 12, wherein said software component interacts with said user to produce said dynamically determined user data.

14. A method for the generation of a software product that is offered via a network, comprising the steps of:

installing a software component in source code of said software product of a software manufacturer by using a software development kit provided by a usage processing provider;

activating said software component when called by said software product;

starting a communication by said software component with a usage processing server after said step of activating said software component;

sending, by said software component, usage processing data that are required for performing usage processing to said usage processing server in the framework of said communication.